

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend Claim 1 below by deleting items marked with a strikeout (i.e. ~~patent~~) or brackets (i.e., [patent]) and adding items marked with an underline (i.e. patent).

1. (Currently Amended)      An emergency stairway escape apparatus ~~that permits~~ adapted to permit people in wheelchairs to egress a multistory building using a ~~conventional~~ stairway comprising:
- a ramp platform of sufficient width to cover at least half of each stair tread and of sufficient length to span from an upper landing to a lower landing of said stairway;
  - a latch mounted to an outward wall of the stairway for impinging said ramp platform in a stowed position and releasing said ramp platform to a deployed position;
  - a plurality of hinges for affixing an edge of said ramp platform to ~~said the~~ the outward wall; and
  - a motion retarding reel mounted to an upper landing wall, said reel comprising high strength cable outwardly dischargeable in a linear manner and self-retracting, said cable comprising a hook attachable to a wheelchair, said reel controlling ascent and descent along said ramp platform.
2. (Original)      The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said ramp platform further comprises a lip edge to prevent an object with wheels from departing said ramp platform and causing damage and injury.

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3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said reel outwardly discharges said cable independent of the weight of said wheelchair and occupant.